

Message Text

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17

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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OES-03 HEW-02 CU-02 ACDA-05 DHA-02 ORM-01 /103 W

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R 031000Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3563

INFT AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KIGALI 386

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, ECIN, BY, RW, CG

SUBJECT: TRIPARTITE FONMINS RECOMMEND CREATION COMMUNITY STATES
OF GREAT LAKES

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: THREE-DAY RWANDA, BURUNDI, ZAIRE TRIPARTITE MEETING ENDED KIGALI JUNE 21 WITH APPROVAL OF TEN ACCORDS INCLUDING CONVENTION CREATING COMMUNAUTE ECONOMIQUE DES PAYS DES GRANDS LACS (CEPGL) AND COMPLEMENTARY ACCORD ON SECURITY. FOREIGN MINISTERS' COMMUNIQUES EMPHASIZE CONTINUED HARMONY AND SOLIDARITY BETWEEN THREE COUNTRIES, BUT PRIVATE GOR COMMENTS SUGGEST REALIST VIEW THAT EMBARKING UPON MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC COOPERATION IN LONG-TERM IS DEPENDENT ON POLITICAL STABILITY IN WHICH TRIPARTITE COOPERATION ON INTERNAL SECURITY IS MAJOR TEST. END SUMMARY

2. KEYNOTE - RWANDAN PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA OPENED TRIPARTITE MTTG JUNE 19-21 WHICH WAS PRECEDED BY PREPARATORY MEETING EXPERTS. FONMINS RWANDA, BURUNDI AND ZAIRE PARTICIPATED WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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RELATIVELY LARGE DELEGATIONS. HABYARIMANA ADDRESS WAS

RATHER IMPASSIONED STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL ECONOMIC BENEFITS
OF COOPERATION IF INTERNAL SECURITY PROBLEMS WOULD BE
RESOLVED. PRESIDENT CALLED SUCCESSFUL START CEPGL
EXPECIALLY URGENT AT TIME WHEN OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES
FORMING ECONOMIC GROUPS. WORKING COMMITTEES OF EXPERTS,
INCLUDING THOSE FORMED BUKAVU TRIPARTITE CONFERENCE,
WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR GIVING CONCRETE BEGINNING TO
PLANS. AT FIRST STEP CTTEE SHOULD IMPLEMENT BUKAVU
AGREEMENT FOR INTERCHANGEABLE USE NATIONAL CURRENCIES
ON FRONTIERS WITH ESTABLISHMENT EXCHANGE FACILITIES AND
RELAXATION CUSTOMS BARRIERS. BOTH PRESIDENT'S SPEECH
AND FINAL COMMUNIQUE INDICATE DESIRE INCLUDE OTHER GREAT
LAKES COUNTIES IN CEPGL, BUT RECOGNITION ALSO EXISTS
THAT GEOGRAPHICAL CONSIDERATIONS LIMIT EVENTUAL EXPANSION.

3. ACCORDS - TEN ACCORDS COVERING WIDE VARIETY ECONOMIC
AND POLITICAL TOPICS INITIALED BY MINISTERS SUBJECT TO
FINAL APPROVAL BY RESPECTIVE CHIEFS OF STATE AT UNSPECIFIED
FUTURE MEETING. MOST SIGNIFICANT APPEAR BE CONVENTION
CREATING CEPGL AND COMPLEMENTARY ACCORD ON SECURITY.
OTHER ACCORDS DESIGNED PROMOTE COMMON EFFORTS IN CEPGL,
INCLUDING HEALTH MEASURES, TOURISM, AND CULTURAL, SCIENTIFIC
AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION. AGREEMENT NOT REACHED ON
PROPOSED SOCIAL SECURITY PROJECT AND CONVENTION ON CIVIL
AND COMMERCIAL SUBJECTS. BOTH TO BE TOPICS FUTURE
COMMISSION MEETINGS.

4. SECURITY - CONCERN FOR NATIONAL SECURITY APPEARED
OVER-RIDING CONCERN IN SPEECHES AND SUBSTANCE AS
REFLECTED IN COMPLEMENTARY ACCORD. RWANDAN PRESIDENT
NOTED TRANQUILITY AND SECURITY ON BORDERS NECESSARY FOR
COMMUNITY SUCCESS, THAT MOVEMENTS OF QUOTE CERTAIN
ELEMENTS UNQUOTE HAVE CONSTITUTED SUBJECT OF DISCORD AND
AGITATION IN PAST YEAR AND THAT THEREFORE THREE COUNTRIES
MUST WATCH FOR QUOTE HYPOCRITICAL ACTIONS OF SUBVERSIVE
AGENTS AND PARASITES UNQUOTE. COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCES THAT
WORK ON QUOTE URGENT PRACTICAL MEASURES UNQUOTE FOR
IMPLEMENTATION OF ACCORD WILL BEGIN WITHIN 15 DAYS AFTER
CONCLUSION OF MEETING TO GUARANTEE SECURITY RESPECTIVE
NATIONAL LEADERS. STATEMENTS BY RWANDAN AND BURUNDI
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FONMINS REASSURE THOSE COUNTRIES WHO VIEW TRIPARTITE AS
"THREATENING" AND NEED FOR AND ABILITY TROPARTITE
COUNTRIES PROVIDE MUTUAL SUPPORT. COMMENT: COUNTRY
ALLUSION IS YET UNCLEAR BUT PRESUMED REFER UGANDA.

5. REFUGEES - HABYARIMANA NOTED TRIPARTITE REPS MUST
CONTINUE WORK FOR SOLUTION REFUGEE PROBLEM IN TRIPARTITE
FRAMEWORK SO THAT IT WILL NOT CONTINUALLY EXACERBATE

RELATIONS. HE INDICATED DECISION HAD BEEN REACHED (AGAIN) TO MOVE REFUGEES FROM "BORDER AREAS" SO THAT THEY WILL NO LONGER BE QUOTE PERMANENT SUBJECT OF CONCERN UNQUOTE TO HOMELANDS.

6. COMMENT: RWANDAN REPS APPEAR PLEASED AT ACCELERATED PACE TRIPARTITE COOPERATION INCLUDING CEPGL BUT DON'T UNDERESTIMATE CONTINUING POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES WHICH COULD AFFECT CHIEFS OF STATE APPROVAL. MAIN IMMEDIATE PROBLEM PERCEIVED IS MUTUAL REFUGEE PROBLEM BETWEEN BURUNDI AND ZAIRE. RWANDA CONSIDERS IT (AND BURUNDI) HAVE GENERALLY ACTED IN GOOD FAITH ON THEIR REFUGEES AND ONLY TWO ZAIROIS POLITICAL TYPES ARE BELIEVED RESIDE RWANDA. A DISQUIETING ASPECT IS THAT EACH SIDE PREPARED LISTS OF PERSONS IT FOUND OBJECTIONABLE IN THE NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES AND GOR HAS ALREADY FORCED EMPLOYERS AT KIGALI AIRPORT (NOW A "BORDER AREA") TO SACK OR TRANSFER BURUNDI REFUGEES. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND ZAIRE INCLUDED A NUMBER OF BELGIANS WHO OVER THE YEARS HAVE SOUGHT REFUGE IN RWANDA. (RWANDA HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN HAVEN FOR EUROPEANS BUT HAS IN PAST YEAR QUIETLY EXPELLED THOSE WHO IN ITS VIEW HAD NO ASSETS OR WERE IMPRUDENT IN SPEECH AND ACTION.) SUBSEQUENT MEETING OF SECURITY EXPERTS WILL REVIEW LISTS FOR ACCURACY AND PRESUMABLY NEGOTIATE TRADE-OFFS. DEGREE TO WHICH RWANDA WILL BEND TO THE ZAIRE WIND ON THIS MATTER WILL BE INTERESTING TEST OF ZAIROIS INFLUENCE. WE SUSPECT RWANDA WILL SEEK SET EXAMPLE BY BENDING DEEPLY.
FRITTS

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